

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01523 150717Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
/064 W

-----038850 160449Z /15

R 141530Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8952  
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, LT  
SUBJECT: RECONCILIATION MEETING

1. SUMMARY. THE PRIME MINISTER HELD A RECONCILIATION MEETING IN AN OPPOSITION STRONGHOLD ON JULY 1, 1978. THIS IS THE MOST RECENT IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS AROUND THE COUNTRY, WHICH ARE RECEIVING WIDE COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 1, THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, G.P. RAMOREBOLI ADDRESSED A LARGE MEETING AT QHOLAQHOE, THE STRONGHOLD OF THE MAKHOAKHOA CLAN WHICH HAS BEEN A STRONG BACKER OF THE OPPOSITION BASOTHO LAND CONGRESS PARTY (BCP). THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, WHO IS A BCP MEMBER FROM THE PRO-GOVT. WING OF THE PARTY, ARGUED FOR COOPERATION WITH THE PRESENT GOVT IN ORDER TO GET ON WITH THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT.

3. TWO CHIEFS SPOKE, MAKING REQUESTS FOR MORE GOVERNMENT HELP, ESPECIALLY FOR SCHOOLS AND ROADS.

4. THE PRIMIN SAID THAT HE WOULD WORK ON THEIR REQUESTS AND THAT HE HOPED THEY WOULD PUT POLITICAL DIFFERENCES ASIDE AND WORK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

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5. THE "LESOTHO WEEKLY" REPORTED THAT THE PRIMIN WAS WARMLY RECEIVED AND THAT THE PEOPLE HAD MADE ELABORATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT. THE MEETING WAS GIVEN NEARLY THE WHOLE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEWSPAPER, MORE THAN ANY PREVIOUS MEETING.

6. COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MEETING OF

THE CURRENT ROUND OF RECONCILIATION "PITSOS". IT MAY ENCOURAGE  
THE PRIMIN TO SEEK RECONCILIATION IN OTHER STRONG OPPOSITION  
AREAS. NO TALK OF ELECTIONS WAS REPORTED. THESE MEETINGS ARE  
IN A SENSE THE PRIMIN'S FEASIBILITY STUDY OF ELECTION POSSIBILITIES.  
WE BELIEVE THAT, DEPENDING ON HIS FINDINGS, THE PRIMIN WILL  
ULTIMATELY DECIDE WHETHER TO GO TO ELECTIONS OR CONTINUE HIS  
SINGLE-HANDED BENIGN RULE.  
STOKES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MASERU01523  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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